

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of access adapters, each adapter configured to interface with an electronic resource;
at least one shareable spare adapter ~~consisting essentially of a circuit board~~ configured to function as a network[, nonuser] interface that removably couples with the electronic resource; and
control circuitry configured to initiate a substitution of the shareable spare adapter for any of the plurality of access adapters to supplant a substituted access adapter without intervention by any server in electronic communication with the electronic resource.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control circuitry initiates the substitution in response to an event.
3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control circuitry initiates monitoring of the event.
4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control circuitry initiates notification procedures regarding the event.
5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the event includes a change in a heartbeat signal transmitted by an access adapter.
6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control circuitry initiates monitoring a process that monitors the event.

Page 2 of 9
Serial No. 09/932,140
Amendment and Response dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2005
IBM Docket: ROC920000284US1
WE&S IBM/178
K:ibm/178Amendments and Response re 12-2-05 OA-upd

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a port of an access adapter of the plurality of access adapters interfaces with only a subset of the shared electronic resource.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control circuitry initiates a reconfiguration of an access adapter into a second shareable spare adapter.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control circuitry initiates a removal of a correlation token from an access adapter.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control circuitry initiates an assignment of the correlation token to the shareable spare adapter.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control circuitry initiates an evaluation of the correlation token.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control circuitry initiates a replacement of an access adapter.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control circuitry initiates a disablement of the shareable spare adapter.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control circuitry initiates disabling an access adapter.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of providing access to a computer resource, wherein a plurality of access adapters each interface with the computer resource, the method comprising using a shareable spare adapter consisting essentially of a circuit board configured to function as a network[, nonuser] interface that removably couples

Page 3 of 9
Serial No. 09/932,140
Amendment and Response dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2003
IBM Docket ROC920000284US1
WE&P IBM/178
K:\ibm\178\Amendment and Response to 12-2-05 OA.wpd

with the computer resource and to supplant an interface provided by a first adapter of the plurality of access adapters, wherein the shareable spare adapter is additionally configured to supplant a second interface provided by a second access adapter of the plurality of access adapters without intervention by any server in electronic communication with the computer resource.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the shareable spare adapter is additionally configured to supplant a third interface provided by any of the plurality of access adapters.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising supplanting the interface in response to an event.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising monitoring of the event.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising initiating notification procedures regarding the event.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising monitoring a process that monitors the event.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising reconfiguring the first access adapter into a second shareable spare adapter.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising removing a correlation token from the second access adapter.

Page 4 of 9
Serial No. 09/932,140
Amendment and Response dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2005
IBM Docket #OC920000284US1
WB&E IBM/78
K:\ibm\78\Amendments and Response to 12-2-05 OA.wpd

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, further comprising assigning the correlation token to the shareable spare adapter.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 22, further comprising evaluating the correlation token.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising replacing the second access adapter.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising disabling the shareable spare adapter.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising disabling the second access adapter.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein each of the first and second adapters access a different subset of the shared computer resource.

29. (Currently Amended) A program product, comprising:
a program for providing access to a computer resource, wherein a plurality of access adapters each interface with the computer resource, the program configured to use a shareable spare adapter ~~consisting essentially of a circuit board~~ configured to function as a network[, nonuser] interface that removably couples with the computer resource and to supplant an interface provided by a first adapter of the plurality of access adapters, wherein the shareable spare adapter is additionally configured to supplant a second interface provided by a second access adapter of the plurality of access adapters without intervention by any server in electronic communication with the computer resource; and
a computer-readable signal bearing recordable media bearing the program.

30. (Cancelled)

Page 5 of 9
Serial No. 09/932,140
Amendment and Response dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2005
IBM Docket: ROC920000284US1
WEE&B IBM/178
K:\batt178\Amendment and Response re 12-2-05 OA.wpd